



Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
District of North Dakota

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Wilton Man Sentenced for Felon in Possession & Unlawful Taking of Bald Eagle

BISMARCK - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on June 2, 2010, **Jesse Marchus**, 30, of Wilton, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Daniel L. Hovland on counts of possession of firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon and unlawful taking of bald eagle. Marchus was found guilty by a federal jury on February 10, 2010.

On the count of possession of firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon, Judge Hovland sentenced Marchus to serve eight years and four months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Marchus was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund. On the count of unlawful taking of bald eagle, Marcus was sentenced to serve one year in federal prison, to be followed by one year of supervised release. Marchus was ordered to pay a \$25 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund. The sentences will run concurrently.

In March 2009, U.S. Fish & Wildlife received information that Marchus shot a bald eagle in northern Burleigh County, along the Missouri River, west of Wilton. An

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investigation led to the execution of a search warrant at that location, on May 8, 2009, at a cabin believed to be Marchus's residence. During the search, law enforcement officials seized nine firearms, over 1,000 rounds of ammunition and a pair of bald eagle feet.

Marchus had previously been convicted of burglary in 2003, possession of drug paraphernalia in 2003, and felon in possession of a firearm in 2006 in Burleigh County District Court. Because of these convictions, Marchus was prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Federal Bureau of Investigation, North Dakota Game & Fish, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Burleigh County Sheriff's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney David Hagler prosecuted the case.

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